


BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC

File No: 12-0059

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	September 3, 2015
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2012
Subject:	Stair or elevator tower serving occupancies "above" a storage garage
Keywords:	Stair or elevator tower, carbon monoxide control, vestibules
Building Code Reference(s):	3.3.5.4.(1)
Question:	<p>Sentence 3.3.5.4.(1) indicates that if access is provided from a storage garage to a stair or elevator tower serving occupancies "above" the level of the storage garage, an intervening carbon monoxide control vestibule must be provided.</p> <p>In a design where the non-parking occupancies (such as office use) being served by the parking, are beside the storage garage via a stairshaft, but at an elevation higher than the level of the storage garage (at an intermediate level between storeys), is it also considered as being "above" the storage garage for the purposes of carbon monoxide control?</p>
Interpretation:	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The intent of Sentence 3.3.5.4.(1) is to provide for control of carbon monoxide potentially moving to upper storeys of a building via stair or elevator towers (shafts). The hazard being addressed is the potential for stack effect mechanisms and air leakage at openings, combining to move hazardous concentrations of carbon monoxide contaminated air through vertical shafts and into non-parking occupancies at a higher elevation than the parking level.</p> <p>Floor levels which are located on the same storey or floor elevation are not covered by Sentence 3.3.5.4.(1). Article 3.3.5.7 is the Building Code reference which addresses the hazards of carbon monoxide movement on the same storey or floor elevation as a storage garage; including those portions of floors that are at a higher elevation, but on the same storey, as a storage garage; but whose levels are not connected by a stair or elevator shaft.</p> <p> R. J. Light, Committee Chair</p>
<p>The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, and POABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The purpose of the committee is to encourage uniform province wide interpretation of the BC Building Code. These views should not be considered as the official interpretation of legislated requirements based on the BC Building Code, as final responsibility for an interpretation rests with the local <i>Authority Having Jurisdiction</i>. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.</p>	
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